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23rd April 1992

PADL/LTT/31787

Dear Beverly,

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO: 90312672
PM 1337 OUR FILE: 31787

RECEIVED
PHILIP MORRIS MANAGEMENT CORP
PATENT SECTION
APR 28 1992
VOTED *WFS CHECKED*

I enclose a copy of the European search report together with a copy of two cited references.

At this stage, I have not studied the references but I note that both have been cited as technological background only indicating that the search examiner does not consider that either prejudices the novelty or inventive step of any of the claims. EP 358002 (Reynolds) is cited as an intermediate document published in between the priority and filing dates of your application. The disclosure is therefore only relevant in assessing the novelty of your claims. I note that it has an equivalent in US 4947874. However, as this was also published after your priority date it is not relevant so long as the claims of this application are entitled to their priority.

As usual, I should be interested for your comments on the two cited documents and any other prior art which might have been cited in the US office.

Yours sincerely

P.A.D. Lloyd
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cc J Ingerman Esq - Fish & Neave

Enc

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